

**ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF OPTICAL LINKS BETWEEN
OPTICAL TRANSCEIVER NODES IN FREE-SPACE OPTICAL
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS**

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A system and method for establishing and maintaining optical links between
optical transceiver nodes in a free space optical communications network is disclosed.
The system and method provide a protocol for acquisition of an optical link between
transceivers in two adjacent nodes and for re-acquisition should a node be replaced or
10 moved. The system and method also provide a protocol for tracking small movements
of one or both nodes in a link. Also, the system and method provide a protocol for
recovering a link that is temporarily lost.

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